

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for calculating duration of a representative cardiac cycle using ECG waveform data, the method comprising:

generating the ECG waveform data using an electrocardiogram device;

evaluating said ECG data ~~to validate~~ for noise, baseline stability or artifacts in a signal from said electrocardiogram device;

detecting QRS complexes of ECG data using a detection function;

analyzing underlying cardiac rhythm based on said detected QRS complexes, wherein said analyzing underlying cardiac rhythm includes a determination of a suitable heart rate based on a number of premature ventricular beats;

selecting an even number N of ~~normally shaped~~ consecutive QRS complexes, if said cardiac rhythm is determined to be suitable rate based on said number of premature ventricular beats;

computing an RR interval between said consecutive QRS complexes to yield N-1 intervals;

calculating duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging at least a plurality of said N-1 intervals;

wherein said calculating duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging includes averaging by one of: a mean method comprising discarding at least one of a longest and a shortest interval of said N-1 intervals, and computing a mean of a remaining N-1 intervals indicative of the representative cardiac cycle so as to associate with a computed tomography imaging system scan; and, a median method comprising arranging said N-1 intervals; and selecting a middle value interval of said N-1 intervals, said middle interval indicative of the representative cardiac cycle so as to associate with a computed tomography imaging system scan.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting an even number N of ~~substantially normally shaped~~ consecutive QRS complexes includes $N \geq 8$.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said validating said signal from said electrocardiogram device includes evaluating for at least one of noise, baseline stability, artifacts, including combinations of at least one of the foregoing.

4. (cancelled)

5-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 3, wherein said discarding includes discarding said N-1 intervals ≥ 1 second.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting an even number N of ~~substantially normally shaped~~ consecutive QRS complexes includes selecting N+L consecutive QRS complexes if abnormally shaped QRS complexes are present, where $L \geq 2$ and N+L is an even number.

10. (currently amended) A medium encoded with a machine-readable computer program code for associating ECG waveform data with medical imaging data using a data synchronization scheme, said medium including instructions for causing a controller to implement a method comprising:

generating the ECG waveform data using an electrocardiogram device;

evaluating said ECG data ~~to validate~~ for noise, baseline stability or artifacts in a signal from said electrocardiogram device;

detecting QRS complexes of ECG data using a detection function;

analyzing underlying cardiac rhythm based on said detected QRS complexes, wherein said analyzing underlying cardiac rhythm includes a determination of a suitable heart rate based on a number of premature ventricular beats;

selecting an even number N of ~~normally-shaped~~ consecutive QRS complexes, if said cardiac rhythm is determined to be suitable rate based on said number of premature ventricular beats;

computing an RR interval between said consecutive QRS complexes to yield N-1 intervals;

calculating duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging at least a plurality of said N-1 intervals;

wherein said calculating duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging includes averaging by one of: a mean method comprising discarding at least one of a longest and a shortest interval of said N-1 intervals, and computing a mean of a remaining N-1 intervals indicative of the representative cardiac cycle so as to associate with a computed tomography imaging system scan; and, a median method comprising arranging said N-1 intervals; and selecting a middle value interval of said N-1 intervals, said middle interval indicative of the representative cardiac cycle so as to associate with a computed tomography imaging system scan.

11. (original) The medium of claim 10, wherein said selecting an even number N of ~~substantially normally shaped~~ consecutive QRS complexes includes $N \geq 8$.

12. (currently amended) The medium of claim 11, wherein ~~said validating~~ said signal from said electrocardiogram device includes evaluating for ~~at least one~~ for a combination of noise, baseline stability, and artifacts, ~~including combinations of at least one of the foregoing.~~

13. (cancelled)

14-15. (canceled)

16. (original) The medium of claim 15, wherein said discarding includes discarding said N-1 intervals ≥ 1 second.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The medium of claim 10, wherein said selecting an even number N of ~~substantially normally shaped~~ consecutive QRS complexes includes selecting N+L consecutive QRS complexes if abnormally shaped QRS complexes are present, where $L \geq 2$ and N+L is an even number.

19. (currently amended) A method for associating ECG waveform data with image data generated by an imaging system using a data synchronization scheme comprising:

obtaining the imaging system, an electrocardiogram device and an object to be examined;

associating said object with the imaging system and said electrocardiogram device; and

processing the image data and the ECG waveform data using the data synchronization scheme wherein the data synchronization scheme,

generates the ECG waveform data using an electrocardiogram device;

evaluates said ECG data ~~to validate~~ for noise, baseline stability or artifacts in a signal from said electrocardiogram device;

detects QRS complexes of ECG data using a detection function;

analyzes underlying cardiac rhythm based on said detected QRS complexes, wherein said analyzing underlying cardiac rhythm includes a determination of a suitable heart rate based on a number of premature ventricular beats;

selects an even number N of ~~normally-shaped~~ consecutive QRS complexes, if said cardiac rhythm is determined to be suitable rate based on said number of premature ventricular beats;

computes an RR interval between said consecutive QRS complexes to yield N-1 intervals; and

calculates duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging at least a plurality of said N-1 intervals;

wherein said calculates duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging includes averaging by one of: a mean method comprising discarding at least one of a longest and a shortest interval of said N-1 intervals, and computing a mean of a remaining N-1 intervals indicative of the representative cardiac cycle so as to associate with a computed tomography imaging system scan; and, a median method comprising arranging said N-1 intervals; and selecting a middle value interval of said N-1 intervals, said middle interval indicative of the representative cardiac cycle so as to associate with a computed tomography imaging system scan.

20. (currently amended) A system for associating ECG waveform data with image data using a data synchronization scheme comprising:

an imaging system;

an object disposed so as to be communicated with said imaging system, wherein said imaging system generates image data responsive to said object; and

a processing device having the data synchronization scheme, wherein the data synchronization scheme,

generates the ECG waveform data using an electrocardiogram device;

evaluates said ECG data ~~to validate~~ for noise, baseline stability or artifacts in a signal from said electrocardiogram device;

detects QRS complexes of ECG data using a detection function;

analyzes underlying cardiac rhythm based on said detected QRS complexes, wherein said analyzing underlying cardiac rhythm includes determination of a suitable heart rate based on a number of premature ventricular beats;

selects an even number N of ~~normally-shaped~~ consecutive QRS complexes, if said cardiac rhythm is determined to be suitable rate based on said number of premature ventricular beats;

computes an RR interval between said consecutive QRS complexes to yield N-1 intervals; and

calculates duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging at least a plurality of said N-1 intervals;

wherein said calculates duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging includes averaging by one of: a mean method comprising discarding at least one of a longest and a shortest interval of said N-1 intervals, and computing a mean of a remaining N-1 intervals indicative of the representative cardiac cycle so as to associate with a computed tomography imaging system scan; and, a median method.

21. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein said object is a patient.

22. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein said imaging system is a computed tomography imaging system.

23-36. (canceled)